



PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

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**FOUR MEN SENTENCED FOR DRUG CONSPIRACY
AND FIREARMS CONVICTIONS**

Fort Myers -- Paul I. Perez, United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida, announced today that Kerome Lendon Paisley, age 26, Jason Jones, age 22, and Damian Fitzgerald Miller, age 22, all of Broward County, were sentenced today in Federal Court by United States District Judge John E. Steele. The men had been convicted after a jury trial in September, 2003, of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute over 5 kilograms of cocaine, and carrying firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. Paisley and Miller also had been convicted of possession of a firearm and ammunition by a convicted felon, and Jones and Miller also had been convicted of possession of a firearm and ammunition by an illegal alien. Jones and Miller are Jamaican citizens illegally in the United States.

The defendants had conspired to rob what they believed was a drug stash house allegedly guarded by members of an armed Colombian narcotics trafficking organization operating in the Naples, Florida, area. The defendants were under the belief that an ATF

undercover agent worked for the Colombian drug dealers and that he knew where they were storing between 21 to 30 kilograms of cocaine at the stash house. The defendants planned to split the cocaine evenly among themselves after the robbery.

On May 30, 2003, the defendants were arrested by Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) agents after meeting with the undercover agent while armed with a total of six semi-automatic firearms and over 100 rounds of ammunition. In addition to the firearms and ammunition, ATF agents seized flex cuffs, two-way radios, and duct tape that the defendants planned to use during the robbery of the cocaine at the stash house.

The Court sentenced Kerome Paisley to a term of imprisonment of 35 years without the possibility of parole and a term of supervised release of 5 years. The Court sentenced Damien Miller to term of imprisonment of 20 years, 8 months and a term of supervised release of 5 years. The Court sentenced Jason Jones to term of imprisonment of 17 years, 7 months and a term of supervised release of 5 years. Rohan Mark McKay, a co-defendant in the case who pleaded guilty and testified at the trial of the other men, was sentenced by Judge Steele on January 5, 2004, to a term of imprisonment of 14 years to be followed by a term of supervised release of 5 years. The sentencing of Gary Livingston Allen, a fifth defendant in the case has been rescheduled for February 9, 2004, at 9:30 am.

This is another case prosecuted as a part the Department of Justice program "Project Safe Neighborhoods" - a nationwide gun violence reduction initiative with strong support from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. United States Attorney Paul I. Perez is coordinating the cooperative effort here in the Middle District of

Florida with federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The objective is to reduce violent crime by locating and seizing unlawfully possessed guns and then swiftly prosecuting the offenders using both federal and state gun laws.

This case was investigated by Special Agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Jeffrey F. Michelland of the Fort Myers Division of the United States Attorney's Office.

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